

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 7, 13, 19, and 20 as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) An image input and output method in which image data is input from at least one image reader input section, and the ~~input~~ image data is output to at least one printer image output section, said method comprising the steps of:

dividing image processing of one image processing unit to be performed into an image input job in which image data is input from the image reader input section and an image output job in which image data is output to the printer image output section;

managing execution of the image input job and execution of the image output job independently; and

determining an end of execution of the image input job; and

after determining the end of execution of a first image input job, permitting the input of a second image input job during execution of the image output job corresponding to the first image input job, and then starting the second image input job while the image output job corresponding the first image input job is being executed. a preceding image input job is finished, starting a subsequent image input job while the image output job corresponding to the preceding image input job is being executed;

~~wherein image data obtained by reading an original image and image data received from an external unit are input in the image input job.~~

2. (Previously Presented) An image input and output method according to Claim 1, wherein image data is input and stored in an image storage section for the image input job, and image data is read from the image storage section and output in the image output job.

3. (Previously Presented) An image input and output method according to Claim 1, wherein (i) the image data obtained by reading the original image, (ii) image data developed from code data expressing an image, and (iii) the image data received from the external unit are input in the image input job.

4. (Previously Presented) An image input and output method according to Claim 1, wherein image data is output to at least one of a printer section printing an image and a transmission section transmitting an image in the image output job.

5. (Previously Presented) An image input and output method according to Claim 1, further comprising the step of creating a plurality of management tables, which hold information used for managing the image input job and the image output job.

6. (Previously Presented) An image input and output method according to Claim 5, wherein the execution of the image input job and that of the image output job are independently controlled in said controlling step according to the information held in the plurality of management tables.

7. (Currently Amended) An image input and output apparatus comprising:  
input means for inputting image data from at least one image reader input  
section;

output means for outputting image data to at least one image printer output  
section;

obtaining means for obtaining image processing parameters, which regulate  
image processing of one image processing unit to be performed; and

controlling means for controlling an input of image data and an output of  
image data according to the image processing parameter obtained by said obtaining means,

wherein said controlling means:

(i) divides the image processing of said one image processing unit  
expressed by the image processing parameters obtained by said obtaining means into an image  
input job in which image data is input by said image input means and an image output job in  
which image data is output by said output means;

(ii) manages execution of the image input job and execution of the  
image output job independently; and

(iii) determines an end of execution of the image input job; and

(iv) (iii) after the determination of the end of a first image input job,  
permits an input of a second image input job during execution of the image output job  
corresponding to the first image input job, and then starts the second image input job while the  
image output job corresponding the first image input job is being executed. a preceding image  
input job is finished, starts a subsequent image input job while the image output job

corresponding to the preceding image input job is being executed;

~~wherein image data obtained by reading an original image and image data received from an external unit are input by said input means in the image input job.~~

8. (Previously Presented) An image input and output apparatus according to Claim 7, further comprising storage means for storing image data,

wherein the image data input by said input means is stored in said image storage means in the image input job, and the image data read from said image storage means is output by said output means in the image output job.

9. (Previously Presented) An image input and output apparatus according to Claim 7, wherein (i) the image data obtained by reading the original image, (ii) image data developed from code data expressing an image, and (iii) the image data received from the external unit are input by said input means in the image input job.

10. (Previously Presented) An image input and output apparatus according to Claim 7, wherein image data is output by said output means to at least one of a printer section printing an image and a transmission section transmitting an image.

11. (Previously Presented) An image input and output apparatus according to Claim 7, wherein said controlling means comprises a plurality of management tables, which hold information used for managing the image input job and the image output job.

12. (Previously Presented) An image input and output apparatus according to Claim 11, wherein said controlling means independently controls the execution of the image input job and that of the image output job according to the information held in the plurality of management tables.

13. (Currently Amended) An image processing system in which image data input by at least one image input means is output by at least one image output means comprising:

obtaining means for obtaining image processing parameters, which regulate image processing of one image processing unit to be performed; and

controlling means for controlling an input of image data and output of image data according to the image processing parameters obtained by said obtaining means,

wherein said controlling means:

(i) divides the image processing of said one image processing unit expressed by the image processing parameters obtained by said obtaining means into an image input job in which image data is input by the image input means and an image output job in which image data is output by said output means;

(ii) manages execution of the image input job and execution of the image output job independently; and

(iii) determines an end of execution of the image input job; and

(iv) (iii) after the determination of the end of a first image input job, permits an input of a second image input job during execution of the image output job corresponding to the first image input job, and then starts the second image input job while the

~~image output job corresponding the first image input job is being executed. a preceding image input job is finished, starts a subsequent image input job while the image output job corresponding to the preceding image input job is being executed,~~

~~wherein said image input means inputs image data obtained by reading an original image and image data received from an external unit.~~

14. (Previously Presented) An image processing system according to Claim 13, further comprising storage means for storing image data,

wherein the image data input by said input means is stored in said image storage means in the image input job, and the image data read from said image storage means is output by said output means in the image output job.

15. (Previously Presented) An image processing system according to Claim 13, wherein said image input means inputs (i) the image data obtained by reading the original image, (ii) image data developed from code data expressing an image, and (iii) the image data received from the external unit.

16. (Previously Presented) An image processing system according to Claim 13, wherein said image output means performs at least one of image printing according to image data and image-data transmission.

17. (Previously Presented) An image processing system according to Claim 13, wherein said controlling means comprises a plurality of management tables, which hold information used for managing the image input job and the image output job.

18. (Previously Presented) An image processing system according to Claim 17, wherein said controlling means independently controls the execution of the image input job and that of the image output job according to the information held in the plurality of management tables.

19. (Currently Amended) An image input and output method according to Claim 1, wherein said at least one image reader ~~input section~~ includes an interface section for connecting to a computer or a facsimile apparatus.

20. (Currently Amended) An image input and output apparatus according to Claim 7, wherein said at least one image reader ~~input section~~ includes an interface section for connecting to a computer or a facsimile apparatus.

21. (Previously Presented) An image processing system according to Claim 13, wherein said at least one input means includes an interface section for connecting to a computer or a facsimile apparatus.